[3rd April 1947

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know whether the village officers will be able to diagnose the particular kind of fever?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As far as possible they will be asked to furnish the information."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister for Public Health will take medical advice in the matter?" (Laughter.)

No answer.

Deaths due to smallpox.

* 144 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that deaths due to smallpox in 1945 were higher than those in 1944;

(b) whether the Government have examined the causes for such increase;

(c) whether the staff employed for vigilant vaccination work has been increased;

(d) whether the Government have under consideration proposals for improving vaccination work; and

(e) whether the Government have under consideration proposals to improve the salaries and prospects of vaccinators and Health Inspectors and to increase the staff engaged in vaccination and supervision of their work?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes. There were 860 more deaths from smallpox in 1945 than in 1944. (Accorded deaths from smallpox in 1945 were 20,636 as against 19,776 in 1944.)

" (b) The causes for the increased prevalence of smallpox in 1944 and 1945 were—

(i) Dislocation of vaccination work during the period 1942 to 1944 due to diversion of the vaccination staff to combat the widespread epidemic of cholera which was prevailing in several districts at the time on account of the abnormal movements of the population due to evacuation and war conditions, and

(ii) dearth of qualified candidates for appointment as vaccinators to vaccinate the large number of unprotected children left over as a result of the above.

" (c) Yes. Special arrangements were made to train candidates in vaccination work and they were appointed temporarily in local areas wherever necessary.

3rd April 1947]

"(d) & (e) Yes. Government have recently raised the scales of pay of vaccinators and health inspectors. Recommendations are being made to the district boards and municipalities to increase their vaccination staff according to requirements. Expansion of publid health services including vaccination work has been provided for in the post-war reconstruction schemes. The number of admissions to the Sanitary Inspector's class in the Madras Medical College has been raised from 90 to 150."

MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to increase the number of women vaccinators? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The matter will be considered."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" May I know how many women vaccinators are working at present? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have no information at present."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask whether the Hon. Minister considers the emoluments paid to the vaccinators and the Health Inspectors are sufficiently attractive to get the best men?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Their salaries have been recently increased according to the recommendations of the Salaries Committee."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister re-examine the question in view of the importance of the work done by the vaccinators and inspectors?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It will be examined."

Control of guineaworm disease.

* 145 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what measures have been adopted for the control of guineaworm disease;

(b) whether it is a fact that the conversion of step-wells into draw-wells is the most effective method for controlling guineaworm disease;

(c) if so, what steps, if any, have been taken to convert step-wells into draw-wells;

(d) whether conversion of step-wells into draw-wells finds a high priority in the rural water-supply scheme; and

(e) how many step-wells have been converted into draw-wells since the rural water-supply scheme was inaugurated?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The following measures have been adopted :—